

OPEN PARAPETS.

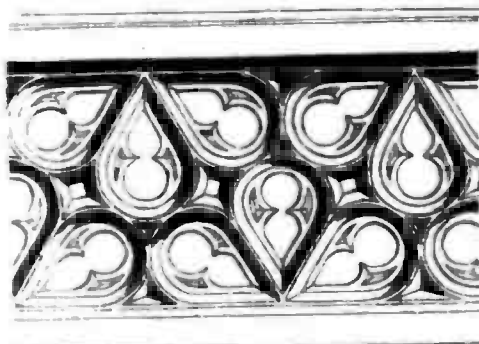


FIG. 4.

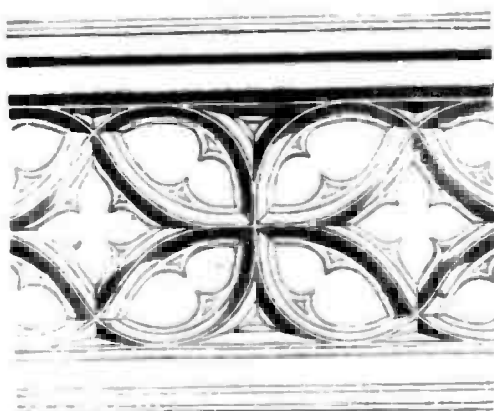


FIG. 5.

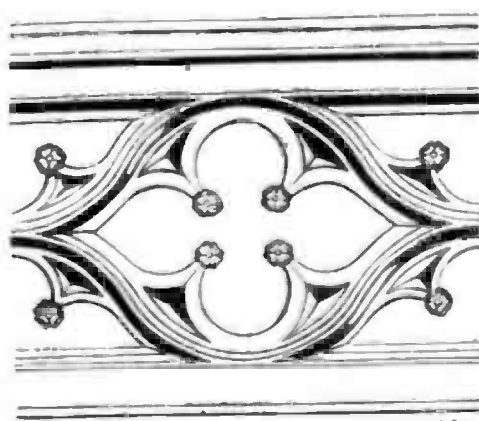


FIG. 6.

C.O.L.

OPEN PARAPETS.

We this week give some specimens of open parapet, in addition to those engraved in a recent number.

No. 4 is from the cathedral of Evreux, and Nos. 5 and 6 are from the churches of St. Gilles and St. Pierre, at Caen, that Oxford of archaeological France.

The province of Normandy abounds with this beautiful ornament, which Rickman, with his usual acumen, pronounced to be characteristics of French architecture.

There is a fine early specimen at the interesting ruins of the Abbaye d'Ardennes, and a later one at the church of St. Michael, at Vancelles, both near Caen. J. G. H.

LONDON CHURCHES RE-OPENED.

CHRIST CHURCH, SPITALFIELDS.

Your correspondent, Mr. Parry, in giving a description of six churches in London, which have been either lately reopened, or are now under repair, has omitted a *seventh*, which claims an equal, if not a more extended, notice with those which he names; not only on account of its merits as a piece of architecture and as being the best specimen of the peculiar style of its architect, but from the nature and amount of the works being executed in improvements and general repairs, and that at no inconsiderable expense. I allude to Christ Church, Spitalfields, one of the fifty-two churches, built in the reign of Queen Anne, designed by Nicholas Hawksmoor, pupil of Sir Christopher Wren. In most of his works, the element of power is strongly developed, arising from the ponderous masses of masonry, extensive flat surfaces, mixed with intricate multangular figures, and minute perforations which are their characteristics. But in Christ Church, the influence of his master's mind is very strongly to be noticed: with an exterior massive and commanding, it possesses a striking interior; with a grandeur of proportion, propriety of distribution, and an

elegance and variety of decoration which render it the most pleasing and elegant church which he erected. A thorough internal restoration has been made, the stone work (of Portland) has been cleaned from the paint, rubbed down, and reworked to a fair surface. The innovations made at various times in the oak fittings have been removed, and the original character of the screenwork restored.

Great improvements are being made in the chancel, the walls of which will receive a decoration in colour. The wooden altar-piece, which consisted of Doric columns and entablature, painted and grained in the most approved imitation marble fashion (evidently subsequent to the erection of the church) has been removed, and will be replaced by a reredos of Caen stone, highly enriched with carvings emblematical of the Eucharist, and having a basso-relievo of the Lord's Supper, taken from the celebrated cartoon of Leonardo da Vinci.

A considerable outlay has been made upon the organ, which will place it upon an equality with any in London.

So much zeal has been manifested in carrying out these works, by the rector and the churchwardens, that it appeared a want of recognition of their disinterested services, if in an account of London churches under repair, the works in progress at Christ Church were omitted from the list. T. Y. jun.

As to Mr. Parry's paper on "London Churches re-opened," I would say two or three words:—

St. Andrew's, Holborn.—The altar table, of marble and iron, in steps or stages, was not "placed here some six years ago," but is of the age of Sacheverell, who is buried below the altar. The "steps or stages" are not "strange," but are the ordinary super-altar, arranged for candlesticks, &c., which formerly stood here.

* See p. 719, ante.

St. Luke's, Old-street, has not had "some old stained glass placed in the chancel window." This glass—a very clever imitation of the coarse Dutch School—is by Mr. Clutterbuck. In justice to Mr. Parry, I must say that I shared in his belief, and I took the performance for Flemish glass; the more so, as by some unaccountable blunder the dimensions of the window were mismeasured, and the glass has been cut down in every direction. There are not "five other churches in the parish of St. Luke," but only three.

Hoxton.

W. SCOTT.

P.S.—A repetition of the marble and iron altar table of St. Andrew's, and of the same date, is in St. Clement Danes. From my earliest years I have been familiar with St. Andrew's, Holborn. I think that my childish recollections do not deceive me in recalling some frescoes on the western wall of that church, prior to the repairs and erection of the little galleries about the year 1820. Can any of your correspondents give information on this point?

DR. SPURGIN'S BRIDGE.—SIR,—I am somewhat surprised that the bridge invented by Dr. Spurgin, and shown in the Great Exhibition, should have been unnoticed by the jury,—an invention which one of our most eminent architects pronounced to be the chief *d'œuvre* of a bridge, and which he should be proud to see thrown across the Thames at Westminster,—a bridge applicable in its principles to the long-sought desideratum in architecture—a flat roof. There is now no reason why the present pointed roofs of our houses should not be converted into useful flat ones. For roofing railway termini and other large covered buildings the advantages of this invention are immense, compared with the so-called self-supporting roofs now in use. This bridge is constructed upon principles derived from the animal fabric, as presented in the vertebrate series.—WORKING MAN.